

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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IO/OIC:BFEMMINELLA (SUBSTANCE)

IO - MR. FRECHTLING

ARA/APU - MR. DAVIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OAS, PARCA

SUBJECT: PAN AMERICAN RAILWAY CONGRESS ASSOCIATION (PARCA)

DESIGNATION OF NEW U.S. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8527, 6841

1. THE DELAY IN PROCESSING THE NOMINATION OF MR. KNICKMEYER AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO PARCA IS DUE TO OUR RELUCTANCE TO EFFECT THIS DESIGNATION AT A TIME WHEN THE DEPARTMENT IS RE-CONSIDERING THE VALUE OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION. WE REGRET THE FAILURE TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND NOT FOR COMMUNICATION TO PARCA OFFICIALS, STATUS OF PROBLEM IS AS FOLLOWS: WITHDRAWAL ACTION RESULTS FROM THREE FACTORS: (A) DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS, RESPONSIVE TO BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLICIES, TO END U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN APPARENTLY MARGINAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; (B) INDICATIONS THAT PARCA MEMBERSHIP MAY BE OF LITTLE UTILITY TO U.S. INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY IN ABSENCE FOR YEARS OF SESSION OF RAIL-

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WAY CONGRESS, AND (C) ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEM REPRESENTED BY

LATIN AMERICAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION (ALAF). CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION RESULTED IN EVEN SPLIT OF OPINIONS, WITH U.S. FEDERAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATOR FAVORING CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP. DEPARTMENT NOW AWAITING SPECIFICS OF JUSTIFICATION AS SEEN BY THE RAILWAY ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THIS MATTER.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO NOTIFY PARCA THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN THIS DESIGNATION DUE PRINCIPALLY TO OUR DESIRE TO KNOW OUTCOME OF ANTICIPATED MERGER WITH LATIN AMERICAN RAILWAY FEDERATION. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES ANOTHER MEMBER OF PERMANENT COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE OVER THE JOB OF TREASURER.

4. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE A FULL REPORT ON STATUS OF THIS MERGER, IN LIGHT OF OUTCOME OF RECENT ALAF MEETING, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO: (A) WHAT IF ANY TYPE OF PARTICIPATION COULD INTERESTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES OF NON-LATIN COUNTRY SUCH AS U.S. MAINTAIN IN ALAF, I.E., OBSERVER; ASSOCIATE MEMBER ETC? (B) WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT OF LARFA AND BETWEEN IT AND PARCA?

5. SECRETARY OF US NATIONAL COMMISSION INFORMED OF FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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